

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2020
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in attendance: Mary McGurn, Laura Allen(Finance Committee Chair), Kevin Zurrin, Juliette Haas(Board of Health director), and Eileen Vining.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Vermeulen introduced the topic of participants on a zoom meeting having to show video. This discussion was postponed to a more appropriate time.

The minutes of the September 15 10am and 2pm meetings were accepted with edits.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

Vice-Chair Vermeulen made a motion that all attendees in any official meetings of the town that take part in zoom must participate using their video on and must identify themselves. After debate the motion, which was approved unanimously, was amended to encourage attendees to participate with video enabled when their technology allows and to otherwise identify themselves if technology does not allow them to utilize video. This information will be disseminated to the public and all town officials. Mary McGurn said that the Great Barrington Selectboard blocks all video, except Selectboard and town officials.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board approved the planning of a Halloween event hosted by the Town at French Park on October 31 as long as all COVID-19 protocols and guidance are followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed the articles for the October 13 Special Town Meeting. There has been some question as the placement of the petitioned version of the ADU on the warrant. The petition was received for the Annual Town Meeting with the appropriate number of signatures. The Board asked the petitioners to agree to postpone due to the issues of holding a meeting during the Covid pandemic.

Article 1 and 2: The Board anticipates a new version of the ADU from the Planning Board that will be a combination of the Planning Board version and the petitioned version.

Article 3: \$8,800 to cover projected overdraft in Transfer Station Expenses.

Article 4: \$2,500 to cover the costs of the Broadband emergency backup contract

Article 5: \$7,000 to begin the planning and engineering for a new Buildings and Ground garage

Article 6: \$8,250 to remove dangerous trees threatening town buildings

Article 7: \$7,500 for costs associated with public transportation for eligible residents

Article 8: Adopt a 6% optional excise tax on short-term rentals plus 3% impact fee.

Article 9: Raise \$5,760 to hire a COVID-19 Compliance Officer.

The warrant will be finalized on Monday, September 28 for posting that afternoon.

The Board had just received a final draft of the Zurrin Host Community Agreement for his proposed outdoor small scale marijuana grow so will review for discussion at the meeting on Sept 28.

The Board will hold a workshop with Housatonic Valley Association to discuss the Road-Stream Crossing Inventory drafted the HVA on Friday October 2 at 1pm at French Park. The workshop will include the Road Superintendent, the Police Chief, a representative from the Conservation Commission and a representative from the Green Committee.

COVID-19:

The Board discussed the need for a Compliance Officer. The HR Committee will review the draft job description on Friday. Juliette Haas noted that we are still getting services such as contact tracing and other Covid-19 areas from the Berkshire Health Alliance at no additional cost.

Chairman McGurn reported that at a recent meeting of the Southern Berkshire Emergency Planning Committee a flu clinic to be held in mid-October was discussed. This clinic will be held on Maple Avenue where the Covid-19 testing is being done and will serve as a practice clinic for the upcoming Covid-19 vaccine clinics. Both senior and a regular dose will be available but no nasal dose. Juliette Haas reported that the Berkshire Health Alliance, which will be conducting Egremont's clinic, is unable to get the Senior vaccine.

UPDATES/FOLLOW-UPS:

Notice has been received from Construct, Inc that the Town will not be receiving the homes that were to be moved to Egremont's Affordable Housing site from the Manville Street project. The Housing Committee is working hard on other plans for housing at the site. An Egremont Housing Trust has been established and, though this is a private not for profit, Town Counsel has been asked to review the bylaws. The Town will need to vote to rescind the vote to lease the property to Construct, but that vote can wait until there is a possible new option for the use of the site.

The Historical Commission has been asked to update their March, 2020 letter of concern to MassDOT about issues with the proposed Route 23/41 project.

The organization MARS that was hired as consultant to the Regional School Planning Committee will be issuing further consolidation analysis in the near future.

MassBroadband Institute has assured the Town that it will separate Monterey and Egremont on the financial agreement. The Board agreed to not issue the letter discussed at the last Board meeting. Monterey has reported that they have used the Egremont draft operation agreement without substantive changes and are ready to move forward.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on Monday, September 28 instead of Tuesday, September 29 at 10am via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/sept22

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.